

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01862 292014Z

12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AF-10 EUR-25 SAM-01 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 014280

R 291507Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SEVSTATE WASHDC 2009

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1862

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO VOTE
ON PARTICIPATION IN COALITION

REF: TEL AVIV 1330, TEL AVIV 1391

1. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL CONVENE
MARCH 31 IN TEL AVIV TO VOTE ON ISSUE OF PARTY'S
CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNING COALITION.

2. NRP HAS BEEN AND REMAINS DEEPLY DIVIDED REGARDING DECISION
OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP EARLIER THIS MONTH TO RE-ENTER GOVT.
WHILE PARTY'S MORE RESTRICTED BODIES HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF
PARTICIPATION BEFORE NEW GOVT WAS SWORN IN (REFTELS),
YOUGH FACTION AND OTHERS HAVE PRESSED FOR VOTE IN CENTRALCOMM-
ITTEE EITHER TO VALIDATE DECISION OR TO WITHDRAW FROM COALITION.

3. OPPONENTS OF PARTICIPATION HAVE MOUNTED CONSIDERABLE
PRESS CAMPAIGN IN RECENT DAYS TO INFLUENCE OUTCOME OF VOTE.
MAIN THRUST OF THEIR ARGUMENT IS THAT NRPGROL EXVT
AGAINST JUDGMENT OF RABBINICAL COUNCIL AND ON BASIS OF
UNACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE RE WHO IS A JEW CONTROVERSY.

4. WE DO NOT EXPECT A NEW GOVERNMENTCRISISAT THIS JUNCTURE,
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01862 292014Z

AND ANTICIPATE THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PROBABLY WILL APPROVE

CONTINUED NRP PARTICIPWTION IN CABINET. BUT, GIVEN DEEP
DIVISIONS WITHIN NRP, CLOSE OR UNFAVORABLE VOTE CANNOT BE
EXCLUDED FROM REALM OF THE POSSIBLE. EITHER OF THESE
DEVELOPMENTS WOULD PLACE NRP MINISTER IN DIFFICULT SITUATION.
KEATING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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